

CLAIMS

1 1. A retractable vehicle cover apparatus for selectively covering a vehicle
2 having sides, the apparatus comprising:

3 an elongated housing presenting side wall structure and having an elongated
4 aperture presenting a length defined through the wall structure;

5 an axle disposed within the housing for rotational movement about a central axis;
6 and

7 an elongated cover having a first end and a second end coupled with the axle, the
8 cover being selectively movable between an extended position where a
9 substantial portion of the cover extends from the housing and a retracted
10 position where the cover is substantially wrapped around the axle;

11 wherein the cover includes opposed edges defining a width, the cover including
12 adjustment means for permitting selective adjustment of the width of the
13 cover between a rest condition where the width of the cover is substantially
14 the same as the length of the aperture and an expanded condition where the
15 cover is expanded to cover a portion of the sides of the vehicle.

1 2. The retractable cover apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
2 adjustment means includes an elastic backing member having a rest width substantially
3 the same as the length of the aperture.

1 3. The retractable cover apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein the cover
2 further includes a plurality of elongated, aligned cover strips extending substantially from
3 the first end to the second end of the cover, the cover strips being mated to the backing
4 member.

1 4. The retractable cover apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein the cover
2 strips are constructed from a flexible, generally water resilient material.

1 5. The retractable cover apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein the cover
2 strips are constructed from generally flexible, synthetic resin material.

1 6. The retractable cover apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein the cover
2 further includes a plurality of padding strips mated to the backing member.

1 7. The retractable cover apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein the cover
2 further includes a pair of straps, each strap being coupled with one of the edges of the
3 cover for retaining the cover in the expanded condition.

1 8 The retractable cover apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the cover
2 further includes an exterior cover member extending substantially from the first end to the
3 second end of the cover, and between the edges of the cover.

1 9. A retractable vehicle cover apparatus comprising:
2 an elongated housing presenting side wall structure and having an elongated
3 aperture presenting a length defined through the wall structure;
4 an axle disposed within the housing for rotational movement about a central axis;
5 and
6 an elongated cover having a first end and a second end coupled with the axle, the
7 cover being selectively movable between an extended position where a
8 substantial portion of the cover extends from the housing and a retracted
9 position where the cover is substantially wrapped around the axle,
10 the cover including a plurality of elongated, aligned padding strips extending
11 substantially from the first end to the second end, and an elastic member
12 mated to the strips for permitting selective expansion of the cover toward
13 an expanded condition for covering the vehicle when the cover is in the
14 extended position.

1 10. The retractable cover apparatus as set forth in claim 9, wherein the elastic
2 backing member presents a rest width substantially the same as the length of the aperture,
3 and the backing member extends substantially from the first end to the second end of the
4 cover.

1 11. The retractable cover apparatus as set forth in claim 9, wherein the cover
2 further includes a plurality of elongated, aligned cover strips extending substantially from
3 the first end to the second end of the cover, the cover strips being mated to the backing
4 member.

1 12. The retractable cover apparatus as set forth in claim 9, wherein the cover
2 strips are constructed from a generally flexible, synthetic resin material.

1 13. The retractable cover apparatus as set forth in claim 11, wherein the cover
2 further includes a pair of straps, each strap being coupled with one of the edges of the
3 cover for retaining the cover in the expanded condition.

1 14. A retractable vehicle cover apparatus for selectively covering a vehicle
2 having sides, the apparatus comprising:

3 an elongated housing presenting side wall structure and having an elongated
4 aperture having a length defined through the wall structure;

5 an axle disposed within the housing for rotational movement about a central axis;
6 and

7 an elongated cover having a first end and a second end coupled with the axle, the
8 cover being selectively movable between an extended position where a
9 substantial portion of the cover extends from the housing and a retracted
10 position where the cover is substantially wrapped around the axle,

11 the cover presenting a pair of opposed edges, and including an elastic member
12 extending substantially between the edges of the cover, the elastic member
13 biasing the cover toward a rest width substantially the same as the length
14 of the aperture and an expanded width where the cover expands to cover at
15 least a portion of the sides of the vehicle.

1 15. The retractable cover apparatus as set forth in claim 14, wherein the cover
2 further includes an exterior cover member extending substantially from the first end to the
3 second end of the cover, and between the edges of the cover.

1 16. The retractable cover apparatus as set forth in claim 14, wherein the cover
2 includes a plurality of elastic members.

1 17. The retractable cover apparatus as set forth in claim 14, wherein the elastic
2 member extends substantially from the first end to the second end of the cover, the cover
3 further including a plurality of elongated, aligned cover strips constructed from a flexible
4 synthetic resin material.

1 18. The retractable cover apparatus as set forth in claim 17, wherein the cover
2 further includes a strap coupled with each of the edges of the cover for retaining the cover
3 in the expanded condition.

1 19. The retractable cover apparatus as set forth in claim 14, wherein the cover
2 further includes a plurality of padding strips.